

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## Research Committee on Social Psychology

### RC42 NEWSLETTER

May 2009

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#### 1 Objectives of RC42

The key objectives of RC42, established in 1988, is to contribute to the development of theory and research in social psychology on an international level, uniting professional and scientific interests of members to work together on a local, regional, and international level.

#### 2 Office bearers

The Board of RC42 elected for the term 2006 to 2010 is:

##### **President**

Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA

[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

##### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Robert Shelly, Ohio University, USA, [shelly@ohio.edu](mailto:shelly@ohio.edu)

##### **Board Members**

Charles Bernard Kinghombe, Université de Kinshasa, Congo

Dahlia Moore, College of Management, Israel

Indrek Tart, Tallinn University, Estonia

Deepak Kumar Verma, India

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Charles Puttergill, University of Pretoria, South Africa

[charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

##### **Past President**

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

### 3 Editorial

RC42 can reflect on more than two decades of its contribution towards strengthening and encouraging the development of theory, promotion of sound research and fostering of dialogue between academics across the globe. In 1986 Mincho Draganov, a Bulgarian Sociologist, founded an ISA Working Group for Social Psychology which gained recognition as a Research Committee two years later. Academics interested in social psychological perspectives have participated in sessions organised under RC42's auspices at the Madrid, Bielefeld, Montéal, Brisbane and Durban World Congresses of Sociology as well as in a number of interim conferences held in Saldanha, Stockholm and Barcelona, amongst others. The XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 to 17 July 2010, provides an opportunity to meet and share ideas in person. We look forward to thought-provoking dialogue and exchanges, revealing the richness of social psychological research and theorising in diverse contexts at this Congress.

A number of RC42 members have opportunity to meet this year at regional, national and international congresses. Wherever you meet may the discussion and experience will be rewarding. Tina Uys has arranged a session titled Social exclusion and social capital – a Southern perspective at the 39<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology in Yerevan, Armenia, in June this year.

In keeping with the spirit of the XVI World Congress of Sociology, where the incumbent ISA President Michel Wieviorka raised tackling the issue of language as one of the concerns he would engage with, we have sent out call for contributions in all three working languages of the association, as a pragmatic measure. We have received two contributions in Spanish for this edition of the newsletter and trust that contributions in both Spanish and French will increase.

The RC42 Board intends to publish two more newsletters during 2009 and one before the World Congress in 2010 when its term ends. Please keep on sending contributions for inclusion in these planned issues. Such contributions make it our newsletter. Getting to know each others work contributes towards engagement and a vibrant RC. The following time table applies:

Issue Date	Submissions
End of August/Beginning of September	May to mid-August
End of November/Beginning of December	September to mid November
End of April/Beginning of May 2010	January to mid-April 2010

Please send your contributions to [charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

#### **4 Comments from the President**

With this edition of the newsletter, we see the growing vibrancy of the Research Committee on Social Psychology. Our new editor, for instance, is engaging in an imaginative outreach to the diverse linguistic communities of our membership by soliciting contributions in Spanish and French as well as English and publishing these along with translations. We need now to keep the momentum going in RC42. In order to do this, it is important for all of us take part in two upcoming events.

First, of course, is the upcoming World Congress in Gothenburg in July 2010. I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting and benefit from the vital exchange it offers. Now is the time to start planning to do so. The session topics for our program are listed in this newsletter as well as on the ISA website link for RC42 under the World Congress program. Note that in addition to several stimulating specific sessions, we also have an “open topics” session that I am organizing. If you would like to present a paper that does not fit well under the other topics, send it to me for that session. Papers accepted for this session will be organized into special themes for the final program. Those of us who attended the interim meeting in Barcelona last September learned just how stimulating discussions can be on topics of shared interest among our members.

A second upcoming event that we should all plan to participate in is the election of our next set of officers. The election itself will take place at the time of the World Congress next year. Now, however, is the time to begin thinking about possible candidates for the offices President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board of RC42. All of these offices will be up for election in 2010. In the next few months, I will appoint a nominations committee that will solicit nominations for each of these offices. The more of us that actively participate in the nominations process and election itself, the stronger our Research Committee will be.

#### **5 Contributions**

Cecilia Ridgeway suggested that I request Guillermina Jasso de los Santos (New York University) to contribute a column in Spanish to the newsletter. I translate the title of this contribution literally as ‘very little thoughts’. However, it deals with ‘big issues’ and is thought-provoking. In this contribution Guillermina sets out to reflect on the ‘words’ used to describe and analyse social phenomena. Using distributive justice as an example she indicates that some languages convey certain concepts more fully and that translation is fraught with challenges as equivalences are not always available, losing some of the nuance in certain instances.

Pequeñitos Pensamientos  
Guillermina Jasso de los Santos

Al empezar un estudio, hay que decidir qué palabras, qué números, usar para describir y analizar los fenómenos principales del estudio. Por ejemplo, cuando empezaba a estudiar las ideas de justicia distributiva – el pensamiento y sentimiento de que algún sueldo o algún castigo es justo o no es justo, y si no es justo, si es injustamente alto o injustamente bajo – era importante encontrar palabras y números que bien captaran y representaran esas ideas. Así es que la frase “justice evaluation” surgió como la locución ideal para esa variable, y los números reales como los números ideales para representarla – con cero para representar el punto de justicia perfecta, números positivos para representar la condición de sobrercompensa y números negativos para representar la condición de subrecompensa.

Pero estos procesos de lengua no son fáciles. Encontrar buenas palabras – un *mot juste* – siempre difícil, es aún más difícil cuando se requiere hacerlo a través de varios idiomas. Por ejemplo, los conceptos de “underpay” y “overpay” aparecen en francés como “sous-payer” y “surpayer” – anoten el guión en uno y no en el otro – mientras que en español se encuentra “sobrepagar” pero no muy frecuentemente “subpagar”. Es cierto que siempre existe la opción de decir “se le paga demasiado” y “se la paga muy poco”, pero le falta algo de parsimonia.

Sería un ejercicio de la mayor importancia si los lectores de este RC42 Newsletter contribuyeran sugerencias para palabras propensas y bonitas en varios idiomas – y en español en particular – para los conceptos fundamentales de la psicología social. Por mi parte, me gustaría proponer los prefijos “sobre” y “sub” para las diversas manifestaciones de justicia distributiva – ¡y sin guión!

Tarde o temprano se reconoce que algunos pensamientos y sentimientos universales se expresan mejor en un idioma que en los demás. Y la tarea entonces es decidir como integrarlos a los otros idiomas. Quizás hay algo muy profundo en las palabras de Carlos V:

Hablo latín con Dios, italiano con los músicos,  
español con las damas, francés en la corte,  
alemán con los lacayos e inglés con mis caballos.

Ésta es sólo una versión. En otras, habla alemán con sus tropas, francés con las damas, y español con Dios. Y existen todavía otras. Hay que recordarse que su lengua materna era francés y que supuestamente no empezó a aprender español hasta los diez y seis años.

Como prototipo de esos principios fundamentales que aparecen mas claros, mas precisos, en ciertos idiomas, ofrezco un principio lleno de significado para la psicología social, el famoso principio de Ortega y Gasset:

**Yo**  
**Soy**  
**Yo y Mi Circunstancia**

**-- Ortega y Gasset**

***Meditaciones del Quijote, 1914***

He tratado muchas veces de decirlo en otros idiomas, y claro que es posible, pero no suena igual, no penetra igual que en español. Aquí también me gustaría invitar a los lectores de este RC42 Newsletter que recopilaran algunos de estos principios universales que suelen alcanzar mejor al *mot juste* en unos idiomas que en otros.

Finalmente, les agradezco muchísimo a Cecilia Ridgeway y a Charles Puttergill su grata invitación a contribuir estas palabritas en mi lengua natal y el gozo de firmar mi nombre completo en español.

The maxim of the philosopher Ortega y Gasset 'I am myself in my circumstances' cited above suggests that new ideas and ways become possible through engagement with others. We learn from and borrow from each other across language communities. The successful American presidential campaign slogan 'Yes we can' is shorthand of 'Sí se puede!' introduced by César Chavez of the United Farm Workers union in 1972.

## 6 Announcements

*The XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11 to 17 July 2010*

The theme of the Congress is "Sociology on the move". Cecilia Ridgeway, RC42 President, is Programme Coordinator. Eight sessions and a business meeting, where the Board for term 2010 to 2014 is selected, are scheduled. The deadline for submissions to session conveners is 15 November 2009. Below is a list of sessions and contact details:

**1: Social psychological impacts of worldwide economic crisis**

Jeylan T. Mortimer, University of Minnesota, USA, [morti002@umn.edu](mailto:morti002@umn.edu)

**2: Globalization, social inequality and status characteristics**

Deepak Kumar Verma, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Sciences, India, [dkvmhow@rediffmail.com](mailto:dkvmhow@rediffmail.com)

**3: Renegotiating citizenship and social capital**

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, [tuys@uj.ac.za](mailto:tuys@uj.ac.za)

**4: Human motives and social cooperation**

Clara Sabbagh, University of Haifa, Israel, [csabbagh@construct.haifa.ac.il](mailto:csabbagh@construct.haifa.ac.il)

**5: Social sciences and natural sciences: Together or apart?**

Tadeusz Sozanski, Pedagogical University, Krakow, Poland, [usozans@cyf-kr.edu.pl](mailto:usozans@cyf-kr.edu.pl)

**6: Work, occupations, and the well-being of workers**

Dahlia Moore, Rishon LeZion, Israel, [dmoore@colman.ac.il](mailto:dmoore@colman.ac.il)

**7: Status in groups, networks, and organizations**

Robert Shelley, Ohio University, USA, and Ann Shelly, Ashland University, USA, [shelly@ohio.edu](mailto:shelly@ohio.edu)

**8: Open topics in social psychology**

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA, [ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

More information on these sessions can be obtained from:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc42.htm>

*Editor Current Sociology Monographs and SSIS book series*

The deadline for applications to fill the position of editorship of the *Current Sociology Monographs* and the *Sage Studies in International Sociology* for a term closes at the end of July 2009. Expressions of interest should be submitted to Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, ISA President for Publications at [dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il)

*Oxford Centre for the Study of Intergroup Conflict*

The Centre is looking for collaborators on an international project on social identity, contact, threat and outgroup attitudes. The objective is to consider how contextual factors like group size influence these issues. They are particularly interested in regions where multiple ethnic groups and

collective identities exist. Members who are interested and who would like to find out more can contact [huseyin.cakal@psy.ox.ac.uk](mailto:huseyin.cakal@psy.ox.ac.uk)

### *Publications*

Several members have published papers in journals. T.J. Bernard has written on the contribution that Social Psychology can make to understand institutional racism better. His article titled 'The neglected social psychology of institutional racism' is published in *Sociology compass* 2(2): 734-764 (March 2008). T Sozanski, see session 5 planned for the World Congress, published a paper with B Richards on 'Translating INSA' in *Connections* 25(2):98-117, which deals with the difficulties of translation. He has subsequently worked on papers that consider the structural diversity of languages, mathematics and stories. Some of his key publications are listed at <http://www.cyf-kr.edu.pl/~usozans/tspubl.htm>

The following books have been published by members. JD Knottnerus and B Phillips (2009) edited *Bureaucratic culture and escalating world problems: advancing the sociological imagination*, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of C Wright Mills influential work. They argue bureaucratisation continues to impede addressing pressing social, economic and environmental issues. The book can be purchased from Paradigm Publishers, Boulder, Colorado at a 15% discount. See [www.paradigmpublishers.com](http://www.paradigmpublishers.com) David Knottnerus is also working on *Ritual as a missing link in Sociology: structural ritualization theory and research* to be published by Paradigm later this year.



Patricia Murrieta Cummings (2008) describes her *Power and resistance* as providing a multidisciplinary perspective drawing on Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology to explain factors that keep children living on the street in Mexico City. Empirical evidence from ethnographic fieldwork and interviews is combined with theoretical insight to transcend description and contribute towards an understanding of this complex phenomenon. It is published by Plaza Y Valdéz in Spanish:

# PODER Y RESISTENCIA

*El proceso de permanencia de los niños  
de la calle en la ciudad de México*

Patricia Murrieta Cummings



A partir del desarrollo de un modelo teórico sobre la dinámica de la relaciones de poder, un análisis etnográfico realizado en la ciudad de M y de entrevistas con niños de la calle, este trabajo explora el proceso que incentiva y permite la decisión de éstos por permanecer en la calle. En este trabajo la autora



brinda un análisis teórico que integra el estudio del comportamiento social desde una perspectiva sociológica, el análisis antropológico para comprender la cultura de los niños de la calle y finalmente el análisis del comportamiento individual a partir de una perspectiva psicológica.

Khumisho Moguerane (2008) published her study on integration at a post-graduate residence at a South African university with VDM Verlag, Saarbrücken, describing the difficulties faced in the road towards a racially integrated community. This study aims to explain why a post-graduate residence at the residence remained racially segregated over eleven years into a new epoch of non-racialism in South Africa. There existed a strong notion in the residence being studied that so-called 'cultural differences' between races made it difficult to share living spaces. It tries to explain how and why this occurs. Data for this study was collected through participant observation and in-depth interviews over twenty months.



### *Awards*

We congratulate Cecilia Ridgeway for receiving the Jesse Bernard Award from the ASA for contributing to an understanding of gender.

## **7 Membership**

The ISA secretariat sends members a reminder when renewals are due. Membership in good standing determines the number of sessions allotted to RC42 at the World Congress. To join and/or renew ISA and RC42 membership please complete the form available at:

[http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm)

## **8 Concluding remarks**

Any suggests on how this newsletter can be improved will be most welcome and can be sent to the editor. Your contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Its success depends on your involvement. I would appreciate it if you can inform me about planned Conferences, new research initiatives and publications that may be of interest to members.

Los invito a enviar contribuciones para el Boletín RC 42. Apreciaré si es que me pueden informar sobre conferencias planeadas, nuevas iniciativas de investigación y publicaciones que puedan ser de interés para los miembros. El Comité de Investigación está muy interesado en fomentar el diálogo entre los miembros dentro del campo de la Psicología Social. Contribuciones escritas en español son bienvenidas.

Nous vous invitons à envoyer des contributions pour le bulletin du RC42. Je vous serais reconnaissant de m'informer de futures conférences, des nouvelles initiatives de recherches et des publications qui pourraient intéresser les membres. Le Comité de Recherche désire encourager le dialogue entre les membres dans le domaine de la Psychologie sociale. Les contributions en français seront les bienvenues.